

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 826

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to commemorate May 13, 2018, as "Food Allergy Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, a food allergy is an adverse health effect resulting from a specific immune response that occurs reproducibly on exposure to a given food; and

WHEREAS, the health effect, called an allergic reaction, occurs because the immune system attacks food proteins that are normally harmless; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for food allergy; strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition and management of allergic reactions to food are important measures to prevent serious health consequences; and

WHEREAS, food allergies affect approximately 15 million Americans, including 6 million children; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of food allergies appears to be increasing among children under the age of eighteen, which amounts to two students in every classroom; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 1997 and 2011, the prevalence of food allergies rose fifty percent; and

WHEREAS, eight foods account for ninety percent of all food allergy reactions: peanuts, tree nuts, milk, egg, wheat, soy, fish, and shellfish; and

WHEREAS, when a person with a food allergy eats one or more of these foods, the person's immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals, including histamine, that trigger a cascade of symptoms that can affect the respiratory system, the gastrointestinal tract, the skin, or the cardiovascular system; and

WHEREAS, anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that comes on quickly and has the potential to become life-threatening; and

WHEREAS, managing a food allergy on a daily basis involves constant vigilance, and trace amounts of an allergen can trigger an allergic reaction in some individuals; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Food Allergy Awareness Day in Tennessee would raise awareness about and increase the public's understanding of food allergies as a serious health issue; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the citizens of Tennessee as they commemorate May 13, 2018, as "Food Allergy Awareness Day" to increase awareness and understanding of this potentially life-threatening medical condition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.